

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 204072 TOSEC 090166

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: EVENING PRESS SUMMARY - AUGUST 25, 1977

NO.15

WIRES

AP -- SCHWEID FROM PEKING

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE ENDED HIS TALKS WITH CHINESE LEADERS
TODAY AND INDICATED THAT WHILE THEY REMAIN DIVIDED OVER
TAIWAN, HIS FOUR-DAY VISIT CREATED "MORE UNDERSTANDING" ON
THAT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES."

OTHER POINTS:

--TAIWAN REMAINS A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO THE NORMALIZATION OF
RELATIONS.
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--VANCE MADE NO CLAIM OF PROGRESS TOWARD NORMALIZATION.

--VANCE CALLED THE TALKS USEFUL AND INFORMATIVE.

--PEKING IS MORE AWARE OF THE POLITICAL PRESSURES ON CARTER
NOT TO BREAK WITH TAIWAN.

--CHINA POLICY IS COMPLICATED BY NEED OF U.S. CONSERVA-
TIVES' SUPPORT FOR CANAL TREATY.

--TRIP APPEARED MOST SUCCESSFUL IN DEFINING US-PRC MUTUAL

INTERESTS IN STEMMING SOVIET PENETRATION.

--VANCE GOES NEXT TO TOKYO; HOLBROOKE GOES TO ROK AND
TAIWAN. - -O ROK AND

PI -- ANDERSON FROM PEKING
- ROM PEKING

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE MET CHINA'S NEW LEADER HUA KUO-FENG
THURSDAY BUT FAILED TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS TOWARD ESTABLISH-
ING RELATIONS WITH CHINA."

OTHER POINTS;

US AND PRC ISSUED STATEMENTS NOTING DESIRE FOR ESTABLISH-
MENT OF RELATIONS; CHINESE CAUTIOUS AND INSISTED THAT US
BREAK RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN.

--VANCE CALLED DISCUSSIONS "CANDID AND SERIOUS" AND USEFUL.

--VANCE INDICATED FOLLOWUP TALKS WOULD TAKE PLACE, PROBABLY
AT UNGA. - -
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--CHINESE HAVE EXPRESSED IMPATIENCE WITH LACK OF PROGRESS
TOWARDS FULL RELATIONS.

--VANCE GOES TO TOKYO FRIDAY; HOLBROOKE TO SEOUL.

REUTERS -- MACKENZIE FROM PEKING

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE, SOUNDED WEARY AFTER FOUR DAYS OF
TALKS WITH CHINA'S LEADERS, SAID TONIGHT HE BELIEVED BOTH
SIDES UNDERSTOOD BETTER THE PROBLEMS IN NORMALIZING
RELATIONS."

OTHER POINTS:

--VANCE'S GUARDED REPLIES CONTRASTED WITH OPTIMISTIC TONE
TAKEN BY CHINESE.

--TAIWAN WAS MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK BETWEEN US AND PRC.

--BOTH SIDES TERMED TALKS "EXPLORATORY."

HUANG CALLED CONVERSATIONS "SIGNIFICANT."

--VANCE SAID TAIWAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED.

--VANCE CITED BENEFIT IN FIRST HAND EXPLANATION OF ISSUES.

--VANCE TO TOKYO TOMORROW; HOLBROOKE TO TAIWAN AND SOUTH

KOREA.

NEWSPAPERS

LA TIMES -- MATHEWS FROM PEKING

LEAD: "CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG WILL
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CONFER TODAY WITH SECSTATE VANCE IN THE FIRST EXCHANGE
THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAS HAD WITH HIM SINCE HE TOOK
OVER AS CHINA'S UNCHALLENGED LEADER LAST FALL."

OTHER POINTS:

--PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS QUICKENED WEDNESDAY.

--TALKS FOCUSED ON US-PRC RELATIONS AND ON NORMALIZATION.

--TENG AND HUA'S PARTICIPATION SIGNALS THAT PRC WILL CON-
TINUE TO DEAL WITH US EVEN WITHOUT ACHIEVEMENT OF QUICK
COMPROMISE.

--CHINESE ARE DISSATISFIED WITH SLOW MOVEMENT TOWARDS
NORMALIZATION.

--IN TOAST, TENG CALLED TALKS "EXPLICIT AND VERY CANDID."

--IN REPLY, VANCE AGREED DISCUSSIONS WERE USEFUL AND HELP-
FUL, BUT HINTED THAT LITTLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE.

--NO SPECIFIC WRITTEN PROPOSAL ON TAIWAN PRESENTED TO
CHINESE.

--CHINESE CALLED ANY CONDITIONS ON THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH
TAIWAN INTERFERENCE IN CHINESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

--SPOKESMAN CARTER REFUSED TO SAY IF EITHER SIDE HAD MOD-
IFIED ITS POSITION ON TAIWAN.

--TENG TREATED US PARTY TO LAVISH BANQUET.

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LA TIMES ALSO RAN PAGE COLOR STORY BY MATHEWS NOTING
VANCE'S "CAST-IRON STOMACH."

EVENING TELEVISION

NBC - BRINKLEY

BRINKLEY: SECSTATE VANCE ENDING HIS TALKS WITH THE LEADERS OF CHINA SAID THE CHINESE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT IN THE US THERE ARE HEAVY POLITICAL PRESSURES AGAINST ENDING OUR TIES WITH TAIWAN. THAT DID NOT MEAN THEY LIKED IT BUT ONLY THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD IT BETTER. BEYOND THAT, VANCE SAID BEFORE HE WENT TO CHINA, THERE WOULD BE NO SPECTACULAR DEVELOPMENTS. HE WAS RIGHT; THERE WEREN'T.

REYNOLDS: THE BIGGEST SURPRISE OF THE TRIP WAS THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WITH PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG. I; WAS UNEXPECTED, AND IT SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT THE CHINESE, DESPITE DISAGREEMENT ON BOTH SIDES, DO CONSIDER THE TALKS A STEP FORWARD EVEN THOUGH THAT STEP MAY BE A SMALL ONE.

--SECRETARY VANCE'S EARLIER MEETING WITH VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING WAS THE FIRST SIGN THAT THE TALKS WERE MOVING TO A HIGHER AND POSSIBLY MORE SUBSTANTIVE LEVEL. IN THOSE TALKS THERE WAS AN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF THE PROCESS AND PROBLEMS OF NORMALIZATION AND THE DISAGREEMENT ABOUT TAIWAN. THE SESSION LASTED LONGER THAN SCHEDULED AND BOTH SIDES SEEMED PLEASED WITH THE WAY IT WENT.

--FOLLOWING THE TALKS, VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING GAVE A DINNER FOR MR. VANCE AT THE SUMMER PALACE OUTSIDE PEKING. OVER DINNER THE HOST DESCRIBED THE TALKS AS EXPLICIT, CANDID, OF VERY GREAT USE AND HELPFUL. IN DIPLOMATIC TERMS THOSE WORDS USUALLY MEAN WE MAY NOT BE IN AGREEMENT BUT WE'LL GO ON TRYING.

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--IN TERMS OF ITS LIMITED OBJECTIVES, MR. VANCE'S VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE GONE REASONABLY WELL. THE CHINESE AND THE AMERICANS ARE STILL TALKING TO EACH OTHER; THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE IS STILL THE BASIS FOR EVENTUAL NORMALIZATION. THE CHINESE STILL CONSIDER THE RUSSIANS THEIR MOST DANGEROUS THREAT, AND THE AMERICANS POTENTIALLY USEFUL IN COUNTERING THAT THREAT; AND, SO FOR THEIR OWN REASONS, BOTH SIDES HERE HAVE AGREED TO CONTINUE TO DISAGREE.

CBS

MUDD: THE LATEST ROUND OF CHINESE-AMERICAN TALKS ON NORMALIZATION RELATIONS ENDED IN PEKING TODAY WITH NO INDICATION THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE ANY CLOSER TO RESOLVING DIFFERENCES.

KALB: SECRETARY VANCE WOUND UP FOUR DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS

WITH TOP CHINESE OFFICIALS DESCRIBING THE TALKS AS USEFUL, BUT HE WOULD NOT COMMIT HIMSELF AS TO WHETHER HE WAS MORE CONFIDENT NOW ABOUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA. HE SAID, AS HE PREPARED TO LEAVE PEKING TOMORROW, THAT HE WAS BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THE CHINESE POSITION ON VARIOUS ISSUES, INCLUDING THE CONTROVERSIAL QUESTION OF TAIWAN. BUT WHILE BOTH SIDES ARE COMMITTED TO NORMALIZING SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS, VANCE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY CLAIM ANY PROGRESS TOWARD THAT OBJECTIVE.

TODAY VANCE REACHED THE SUMMIT OF THE CHINESE POWER STRUCTURE. HE MET WITH CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG; IN CHINA A MEETING WITH THE CHAIRMAN IS A RARE, ALMOST HOLY EVENT DESTINED FOR MASSIVE PUBLICITY THROUGHOUT THIS LAND WITH A POPULATION APPROACHING ALMOST ONE BILLION.
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THE VANCE VISIT MIXED DIPLOMACY WITH A TOUCH OF CHINESE HISTORY. THE SECRETARY WAS GIVEN A TOUR OF THE CENTURIES-OLD SUMMER PALACE, ONCE THE PLAYGROUND OF THE CHING DYNASTY. THIS COMPLEX CREATED FOR CHINESE EMPORERS IS NOW USED BY CHINA'S COMMUNIST RULERS TO ENTERTAIN THEIR GUESTS.

CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG'S DECISION TO MEET WITH SECRETARY VANCE IS THE ULTIMATE EVIDENCE THAT THE CHINESE WANT THE SINO-AMERICAN CONNECTION TO CONTINUE EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE UNHAPPY ABOUT UNITED STATES TIES WITH TAIWAN.

ABC

SMITH: SECRETARY VANCE TODAY CONCLUDED HIS TALKS WITH CHINESE LEADERS IN PEKING, THE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL CONTACT BETWEEN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND CHINA.

JENNINGS: ON THIS LAST FULL DAY OF SECRETARY VANCE'S STAY HERE IN PEKING, THERE IS NO SIGN THAT THE CHINESE-AMERICAN TALKS HAVE GONE BADLY. NEITHER IS THERE ANY PARTICULAR INDICATION THAT THEY HAD GONE WELL. BEFORE LEAVING WASHINGTON, MR. VANCE SAID, AND HE'S REPEATED IT WHILE TRAVELING, THAT THE TALKS WERE EXPLORATORY.

IN THE FOUR DAYS HE HAS BEEN HERE, MR. VANCE HAS WORKED HIS WAY UP THE LEADERSHIP LADDER, AND TODAY HE WAS RECEIVED BY CHINA'S TOP POLITICIAN HUA KUO-FENG, THE PREMIER AND NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. AFTERWARDS, MR. VANCE WOULD NOT SAY THAT THE MEETINGS HAD MADE NORMALIZING CHINA-

U.S. RELATIONS ANY EASIER.
HE DID SAY HE THOUGHT BOTHSIDED UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHERS

POSITIONS BETTER, THAT CHINA AND THE US HAD OTHER INTERESTS
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IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD. OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT
MEANS A COMMON THREAT FROM MOSCOW.

THE CHINESE ARE IMMENSELY PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN
SECURITY. THE CHINESE-RUSSIAN BORDER IS THE LONGEST IN
THE WORLD, AND RUSSIA IS CONSIDERED THE NUMBER ONE ENEMY.
THE CHINESE CAN ALWAYS ARGUE THEY CAN FIGHT A PEOPLE'S
WAR. IT'S THE ONLY WAR THEY COULD FIGHT EFFECTIVELY. CHINA
HAS A LIMITED NUCLEAR CAPABILITY; BUT ALL THE REST OF HER
EQUIPMENT, EXCEPT THE SOLDIER, IS OBSOLETE. AN ENEMY
TRYING TO CAPTURE CHINA WOULD FIND THE THREE AND A HALF
MILLION MAN ARMY, PLUS THE MILITIA, NIPPING AT HIS HEELS;
BUT ON THE RUSSIAN BORDER THERE IS NO ALL-WEATHER RADAR
TO DETECT PENETRATING BOMBERS. ACCORDING TO U.S. ANALYSTS
THERE ARE NO AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES; ANTI-TANK WEAPONS ARE
SIMILAR TO THOSE THE U.S. HAD IN VIETNAM. THERE IS ALWAYS
FEAR HERE THAT RUSSIA WILL ATTACK. AS SUCH, THE UNITED
STATES IS SEEN AS THE GREAT COUNTERWEIGHT; AND THAT'S WHAT
CHINA WOULD LIKE FROM US - CONTINUING TENSION BETWEEN
MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON SO AS TO KEEP THE HEAT OFF PEKING.

TOMORROW MR. VANCE GOES TO TOKYO.

CHRISTOPHER

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